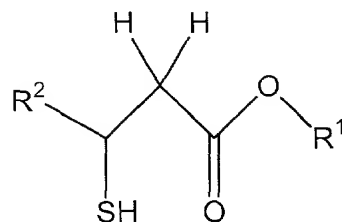


1. A flavor or fragrance composition comprising at least one compound of formula I



- 5 or a precursor thereof, wherein R¹ represents a branched or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl or alkadienyl group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms and R² represents a methyl or ethyl group.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein R1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, iso-butyl, tert-butyl, n-hexyl, (Z)-2-hexenyl, (E)-3-hexenyl, (E)-2-hexenyl, (Z)-3-hexenyl and n-octyl.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein at least one compound is selected from the group consisting of 3-mercaptoputanoic acid methyl ester, 3-mercaptoputanoic acid ethyl ester, 3-mercaptoputanoic acid n-hexyl ester, (R)-3-mercaptoputanoic acid methyl ester, 3-mercaptoputanoic acid (Z)-3-hexenyl ester, 3-mercaptopentanoic acid ethyl ester and precursors thereof.

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4. The composition of claim 3 wherein at least one compound is selected from the group consisting of 3-mercaptoputanoic acid methyl ester and 3-mercaptoputanoic acid ethyl ester.

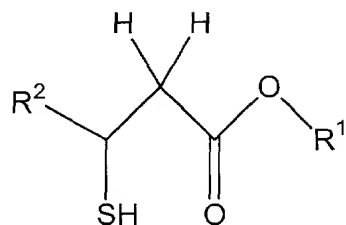
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the total amount of carbon atoms of at least one compound of formula I is at least 8.

6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the precursor is formed by reaction of acyl chloride with the compound of formula 1.

7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the concentration of the compound of formula 1 or of the precursor thereof is from 0.001% to 30%.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the concentration of the compound of formula 1 or of the precursor thereof is from 0.001% to 10%.

9. A method of adding a flavor or fragrance to a product wherein at least one compound of formula 1



or a precursor thereof, wherein R¹ represents a branched or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl or alkadienyl group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms and R² represents a methyl or an ethyl group, is added to the product.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of a food, a beverage, a healthcare product, a household product, and combinations thereof.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein R1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, iso-butyl, tert-butyl, n-hexyl, (Z)-2-hexenyl, (E)-3-hexenyl, (E)-2-hexenyl, (Z)-3-hexenyl and n-octyl.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one compound is selected from the group consisting of 3-mercaptoputanoic acid methyl ester, 3-mercaptoputanoic acid ethyl ester, 3-mercaptoputanoic acid n-hexyl ester, (R)-3-mercaptoputanoic acid methyl ester, 3-mercaptoputanoic acid (Z)-3-hexenyl ester, 3-mercaptopentanoic acid ethyl ester, and precursors thereof.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one compound is selected from the group consisting of 3-mercaptoputanoic acid methyl ester and 3-mercaptoputanoic acid ethyl ester.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein the precursor is formed by reaction of acyl chloride with the compound of formula 1.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound(s) of formula I or the precursor(s) thereof is/are present in an amount of 0.001 mg/kg to 500 mg/kg of said product.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound(s) of formula I or the precursor(s) thereof is/are present in an amount of 0.01 mg/kg to 50 mg/kg of said product.